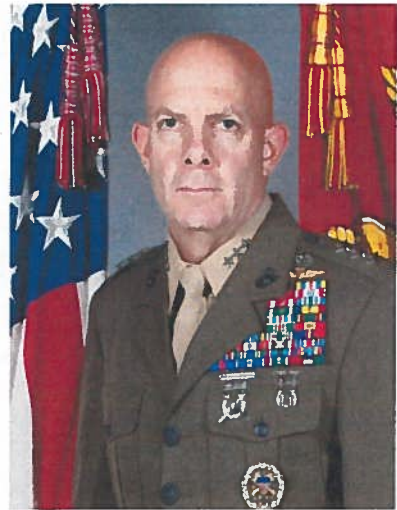


I Marine Expeditionary Force

Equal Opportunity Policy

Since the birth of our Corps, Marines, Sailors and civilians from diverse racial, religious, and economic backgrounds have lived, worked, and fought together in defense of each other, our Corps, and our nation. Our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment require all of us to ensure that every member of I MEF is to be judged on his or her individual merit, fitness and ability. The unique difference each of us brings to the fight such as race, religion, age, gender, color, national origin, and sexual orientation should be embraced, as they are what make this nation great.



As we conduct current combat operation, prepare for combat, and train future leaders, we must understand that discrimination and sexual harassment undermines morale, reduces combat readiness, and prevents maximum utilization and the development of I Marine Expeditionary Force most valuable asset, its people. Discrimination and sexual harassment in any form will not be tolerated in this command. I am legally bound to provide an environment in which every Marine, Sailor, and civilian is treated with honor, dignity, and respect. Operational excellence has not time for such negative behavior.

I MEF Marines, Sailors, and civilians should attempt to resolve any equal opportunity issues at the lowest level possible by utilizing their chain of command and/or the Informal Resolution System. The preferred method for filing a formal complaint is Request Mast. EO complaints will be handled promptly and professionally. Any member that takes reprisal actions against a member bringing forward a complaint will be disciplined under the Uniform Code of Military Justice; likewise, anyone who knowingly makes false allegations of discrimination or sexual harassment will be subject to similar administrative and/or disciplinary action. Leaders at all levels will ensure that contents and the intent of the Marine Corps order governing the Equal Opportunity Program are understood and adhered to at all time.

Semper Fidelis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Berger".

D. H. Berger

Lieutenant General, USMC

Commanding General

I Marine Expeditionary Force